



Autumn is a tremendously busy season in student ministry. The summer has flown by. October reveals fluttering leaves with red, orange and yellow hues. These colorful heralds tumble to the cool ground, announcing the pending arrival of Old Man Winter.

One wonders what unseen “work” is taking place that the very landscape around us undergoes a preparation for the next season. During these passages of time our minds reflect on what God is up to behind the scenes. Something spectacular, to be sure!

For our part in His masterpiece, Paul’s injunction to the Colossians rings in our ears, “**Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord...**” (3:23) Such words resonate within us as we work the fields of family, of ministry...of life.



*In the **outfields** farther abroad **across Europe**, we have marked this season’s tenure with...*

- **teaching** at a first SFC training camp near **Kiev, Ukraine**,
- a huddle-up **planning** for the fall semester in **Budapest, Hungary** with SFC student leaders (below),
- a timely **connection** with colleagues & the leader of **Ireland’s** national church movement with whom SFC works (left),
- a **site visit** just outside of **Berlin, Germany** for SFC-Europe’s CONNECT 2017 training conference,
- and weekly **Skype prayer** with Europe-wide ministry leaders.

*In the nearer, **infield** of our host nation, **Belgium**, our recent activities have included:*

- **serving as proctor & mentor** for a friends’s theological studies, **coaching a young leader** of one of SFC’s campus groups, and **accompanying** the new **national leader of SFC-Belgium** in her premier year at the helm of this ministry.
- **hosting & nourishing friendships** that date back 21 years to our first arrival in this nation and **gathering with our neighbors** for an annual street party to build friendships for sharing faith through relationship.
- **praying strategically** with passionate young visionaries concerning pioneering possibilities, **lending a voice** to the creation of a **men’s ministry** in the local assembly we attend, and **participating in the pastoral network** with which we affiliate in Belgium.
- **walking engaged couples** thru prayerful conceptualizing of their Christian marriage in preparation for their “big day” and **performing the wedding of a Belgian couple** as they grow in their faith journey.
- **helping move into student housing**, the now university age son of dear friends, in whose living room we planted SFC in the city of Louvain-la-Neuve 16 years ago.
- **visiting** the début **art showing** of an **Iraqi Christian friend** signaling her further integration into Belgian culture and affirmation as an artist and person of worth.
- **organizing a missions evening** for a former SFC leader who is now a “worker” in the Middle East.



***On the home field**, it has been our delight to witness:*

- **David’s** induction into the rotation of our local church’s worship team as a drummer,
- a new opportunity for **Christopher** to babysit the newly adopted son of an SFC alumni couple,
- **Claire** working as an English immersion teacher and serving in SFC at Louvain-la-Neuve,
- the announcement by **Josiah’s** music teacher that he has the best voice in the class and thus his impetus to “belt it out” during his weekly course,
- and the approaching celebration of having the whole of our brood visiting us this Christmas.

**Working for the Lord with our whole being, we are your partners in mission,
the Bonin family**